

**Media Contacts:**

Susan Friday Lamb, 919-807-7943

Ken Howard, 919-807-7878



## **Reproduction 1903 Wright Flyer from Kill Devil Hills in Raleigh at N.C. Museum of History**

The **N.C. Museum of History** in Raleigh is providing a temporary home for the **reproduction 1903 Wright Flyer** from the Wright Brothers National Memorial Visitor Center in Kill Devil Hills. The Outer Banks site is undergoing a rehabilitation project through summer of 2018.

Prominently featured at the N.C. Museum of History, the 1903 Flyer creates an impressive sight for visitors entering the three-story lobby. The aircraft is suspended at a height of 12 feet, the same height of the Wright brothers' first flight. On Dec. 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright successfully flew the first powered flight in Kill Devil Hills.

"The North Carolina Museum of History is honored to have been selected by the National Park Service to display its reproduction of the Wright brothers' 1903 Flyer during the renovation of the Wright Brothers National Memorial Visitor Center," says Ken Howard, Museum Director. "We hope that people will take advantage of this opportunity to see the Flyer while it is in this part of the state."

The 1903 Flyer joins a display in the museum lobby that includes a reproduction of the 1911 Wright glider that Orville Wright and British aviator Alexander Ogilvie flew at Kill Devil Hills. The object is based on the glider the men used from Oct. 16 to 26, 1911, to make nearly 100 test glides.

"The National Park Service is very pleased to be partnering with the North Carolina Museum of History to loan the reproduction 1903 Wright Flyer during the rehabilitation of the Wright Brothers National Memorial Visitor Center," says Jami P. Lanier, Cultural Resource Manager for the National Park Service Outer Banks Group, which includes Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, and Wright Brothers National Memorial. "The Flyer was built by The Wright Experience, Inc. of Warrenton, Va., and donated by aviation pioneer Harry B. Combs to the Wright Brothers National Memorial in honor of the 2003 Centennial of Flight. We are happy that the 1903 Flyer will remain in the state of North Carolina during the rehabilitation project and that it will be on display for the public to enjoy."

### **Expanded Section on Wright Brothers in Exhibit *The Story of North Carolina***

On **Saturday, Dec. 17**, the **113th anniversary of the first flight**, the Museum of History will open an **expanded section on the Wright brothers** in the exhibit ***The Story of North Carolina***. Original artifacts on loan from the National Park Service will be showcased in the exhibit. Visitors will see several airfoils the Wright brothers used in their wind tunnel experiments. In addition, the shovel that Orville Wright and William (Bill) Tate used in the ca. 1933 groundbreaking ceremony of the Wright Brothers National Memorial will be on view. Tate was a Kitty Hawk resident who helped Orville and Wilbur and became their lifelong friend. Historical photographs, a façade of the brothers' shed at Kill Devil Hills, and the museum's own reproduction 1903 Wright Flyer will further enhance the exhibit.

Plan to come to the Museum of History and learn about two self-taught geniuses from Dayton, Ohio, whose work and determination solved the mysteries of flight. Their experiences on North Carolina's Outer Banks helped them achieve their dream — one that changed the world.

For information about the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian-affiliated museum, call 919-807-7900 or access [ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://ncmuseumofhistory.org) or follow on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+ or YouTube.

**IMAGE:** The N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh. Dropbox link: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/23qa5rqsg97rz4o/Museum%20building.JPG?dl=0>

### **About the N.C. Museum of History**

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 300,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

### **About the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. Led by Secretary Susan Kluttz, NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit [www.ncdcr.gov](http://www.ncdcr.gov).

# # #